

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention teaches a mechanism or method for automatically and dynamically switching between a post filter and a loop filter for a video decoder. This dynamic operation is done automatically based on encoding parameters that are derived from information found in the bit stream being decoded by the video decoder. Based on these parameters, the decoder decides that the frame store should be filled with the unfiltered reconstructed picture or the filtered reconstructed picture. The decision is done on a picture by picture basis. Regardless of the decision, the output display picture is always filtered.